

July 15, 2002

Public Notice for 401 Water Quality Certification

**Eureka Sand and Gravel Company
Hauck Bar Gravel Extraction**

Humboldt County

On June 3, 2002, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the Eureka Sand and Gravel Company requesting Federal Clean Water Act, Section 401 Water Quality Certification and California Code of Regulations Water Quality Certification for the Hauck Gravel Bar Extraction Project in Humboldt County, CA. The application was deemed complete on June 14, 2002. The proposed project causes disturbances to the waters of the United States associated with the Eel River and Van Duzen River located in the Eel River Hydrologic Unit No.# 111.00.

The proposed project is located on the Eel River and Van Duzen River in Humboldt County, California in portions of Sections 14, 15, 22, and 23, Township 2 North, Range 1 West, HB&M. The project involves a temporary bridge crossing of the Eel River Channel, extraction vehicle access, and excavation of flood-washed gravel from the exposed gravel bars. The extraction of up to 150,000 cubic yards of river-run gravel will occur annually between August 15 and October 15. The 401 Water Quality Certification issued for this project will be valid for the extraction seasons in the years of 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006. The extraction of gravel from these sites has occurred since the 1950's, and is currently regulated by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE), and several other agencies. Access to the site on the northern Van Duzen River delta is reached via existing haul roads and does not require any bridges or river crossings. A second site is located in the middle of the channel of the Eel River. This site is accessed either by placing two 48-inch culverts in the overflow channel or by placing a flatbed railroad car over the main channel of the Eel River as a bridge crossing.

Eureka Sand and Gravel Company will implement mitigation and impact avoidance measures during the gravel extraction processes. These measures include limiting the number of haul roads providing access to the channel extraction areas and minimizing the need for temporary stream crossings when practicable. Eureka Sand and Gravel will also maintain the vertical and horizontal offsets of the extraction area to prevent incidental fill. Additionally, annual extraction plans are created to compliment natural bar topography in order to minimize the potential for geomorphologic changes related to the extraction activities.

The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency, certified a supplemental Environmental Impact Report

(EIR), State Clearinghouse No.# 92013033 on July 24, 1997, for the Hauck Gravel Bar Extraction.

The nearest receiving water is the Eel River and Van Duzen River located in the Eel River Hydrologic Unit No.# 111.00.

The Hauck Gravel Bar Extraction project is scheduled to begin annually between August 15 and October 15. The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) may grant an extension of the extraction season. Staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Sections 3830-3869.

Comments on this project should be submitted to Miguel Villicana at villm@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov, within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

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